

OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

another! When this is in return for a rude thing-said by another, it brings him to his senses, it mortifies and corrects him in the most salutary way, and places him at the feet of your good nature, in the eyes of the company. (To T. J. Randolph, 1808. C. V., 389-)

THE POOR VISITED.—To do it most effectually, you must be absolutely incognito, you must ferret the people out of their hovels as I have done, look into their kettles, eat their bread, loll on their beds under pretense of resting yourself, but in fact to find if they are soft. You will feel a sublime pleasure in the course of this investigation, and a sublimer one hereafter, when you shall be able to apply your knowledge to the softening of their beds, or the throwing a morsel of meat into their kettle of vegetables. (To La Fayette, 1787. C. II., 136.)

POWER.—An honest man can feel no pleasure in the exercise of power over his fellow citizens. And considering as the only offices of power those conferred by the people directly, that is to say, the executive and legislative functions of the general and the State governments, the common refusal of these, and multiplied resignations, are proofs sufficient that power is not alluring- to pure minds, and is not, with them, the primary principle of contest. This is my belief of it; it is that on which I have acted; and had it been a mere contest who should be permitted to administer the government according to its genuine Republican principles, there has never been a moment of my life in which I should have relinquished for it the enjoyment of my family, my poems, my friends and books. (To Mr. Melish, 1813. C. VI., 96.)

POWER.—I wish that all nations may recover and retain their independence; that those which are overgrown may not advance beyond safe measures of power, that a salutary balance may be ever maintained among nations, and that our peace, commerce, and friendship may be sought and cultivated by all. It is our business to manufacture for ourselves whatever we can, to keep our markets open for what we can spare or want; and the less we have to do with the amities and enmities of Europe, the better. Not in our day, but in no distant one, we may shake a